cularly describing their plans for promoting the growth of small and medium towns to arrest migration to large cities.

In 8th Five Year Plan, a two pronged strategy to arrest migration from rural areas to cities, and to control the crowth of cities, is envisaged as follows:-

(i) Implementation of programmer for generation of more employment opportunities and
creation of better facilities for living in rural areas like the Integrated Rural Development Programme; Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Development of Women and Children in the rural areas, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Minimum Needs Programme, etc: (These schemes are implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development).

(ii) Greater emphasis on the development of small and medium towns with a view to increasing employment opportunities and providing urban infrastructure for absorbing surplus rural labour and to provide necessary linkages between the rural hitherland and urban areas.

(b) and (c) Since Urban Development is a state subject, it is upto State Governments to form a specialised cadre of officers for corporation and municipalities an undertake administrative reforms to give better administration to urban areas. However, through periodic consultations with State Govemmmt officials; Ministry of urban Development has been emphasizing the need for human .resourers planning and up-gradation in managing urban development projects. To a certain extent, the Ministry has been helping State Governments in training the urban managers/administrators,with management tools and providing opportunities to them to leam from forign visits under bilateral [multilateral aid leam programmes.

The changes initiated through the 74th Consutitutional Amendmen would, it is expected; lead to strenj thening of municipal bodies throug greater functional drcentralisatio and financial autonomy.

Additional financial assistance to oi going irrigation projects

2253. SHRI S. AUSTIN; Will th Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Govern ment have agreed to provide add: tional financial assistance to th State Governments for complrtio of on-going irrigation projects; an

(b) if so, the details thereof; State wise?

THE, MINISTER OF STATE II THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVE LOFMENT AND THE MINTSTE1 OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O] WATER RESOURCES (SHRI R. -K THUNGONT: (a) and (b) No, Sir However, as a special case it ha been agreed to provide additional centra assistance to the extent of Rs. 550 crore for the completion of Sardar Saro var Project to compensate the loss o US $ 165.541 million due to disengage ment of the project from the World Bani Group assistance.

Talks brtween India and Banglades on Gangda water sharing

..2254. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will th Minister of WATER RESOURCE! be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held re cently betwem India and Bangle desh on Ganga Water sharing; an

(b) if so, the outcome there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IJ THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVI LOPMENT AND THE MINISTE1 OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. B